

IN THE UNITED STATES  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent No.: 6,776,015 )  
)  
Issued: August 17, 2004 )  
)  
Serial No. 09/904,287 )  
)  
Filed: July 12, 2001 )  
)  
Applicant: SEAGAR and SALISBURY )  
)  
For: PERFORATION OF LAUNDRY )  
MACHINE DRUM )  
)  
Examiner: F. Stinson )  
)  
Art Unit: 1746 )  
)  
Confirmation No.: 2028 )  
)  
Attorney Docket No.: )  
1170/39480/101 )

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being  
deposited with the United States Postal Service as  
first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria,  
VA 22313-1450 on APRIL 19, 2006  
(Date of Deposit)

Maria E. Kitz

Name of applicant, assignee or Registered Rep.

Signature

Date

Certificate  
APR 27 2006  
of Correction

**REQUEST FOR A CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION**

Mail Stop: Corrections  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Enclosed herewith is a Request for a Certificate of Correction for the above-identified patent. The claims of the patent have errors therein in that the presented in the Amendment dated February 20, 2004, and allowed by the Examiner, were not been printed in the original patent. Some of these errors were previously noted and corrected by a Certificate of Correction dated December 7, 2004. The present Certificate of Correction is submitted to correct all of the errors, which were recently noted by the Applicant.

During prosecution, the relevant events that took place are as follows:

- 1) A Request for Continued Examination (RCE), and an associated Amendment, were filed on February 20, 2004. See Exhibit A.

APR 27 2006

- 2) The Notice of Allowability, mailed on April 23, 2004 indicated that the Amendment filed on February 20, 2004 was entered and the allowed claims were 1-9 and 17-31. See Exhibit B.
- 3) The issued patent number 6,776,015 dated August 17, 2004, issued with claims 1-10 which are the incorrect claims. These claims are not the allowed claims as cited on the Notice of Allowability (these claims appear to be the claims as pending before the Amendment dated February 20, 2004). See Exhibit C.
- 4) A Certificate of Correction dated December 7, 2004 was issued to correct errors found on patent number 6,776,015. See Exhibit D. Upon a further review of this issued Certificate of Correction, Applicant notices that this Certificate of Correction did not include all the necessary corrections. **Therefore, please delete the Certificate of Correction issued on December 7, 2004.**

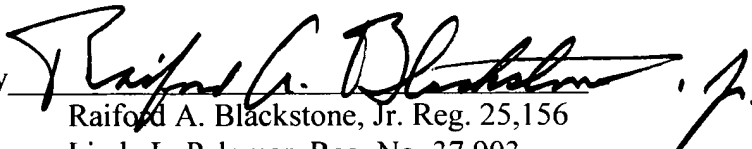
**A revised Request for a Certificate of Correction for patent number 6,776,015 is enclosed as Exhibit E to correct all of the errors in the patent.**

It is respectfully requested that the **revised** Certificate of Correction request be accepted and placed in the file of the above-noted patent. Also, it is requested that the correct claims be renumbered as it would appear on the patent.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the payment of the required fee(s) or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1495.

Should there be any questions regarding this Communication, please contact one of the undersigned attorneys at (312) 704-1890.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 19, 2006 By   
Raiford A. Blackstone, Jr. Reg. 25,156  
Linda L. Palomar, Reg. No. 37,903

TREXLER, BUSHNELL, GIANGIORGI.  
BLACKSTONE & MARR, LTD.  
105 W. Adams Street  
Suite 3600  
Chicago, Illinois 60603

APR 27 2006



Exh. A

IN THE UNITED STATES  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT

Serial No.: 09/904,287 )  
Applicant: SEAGAR and SALISBURY )  
Filed: July 12, 2001 )  
For: PERFORATION OF LAUNDRY )  
MACHINE DRUM )  
Examiner: F. STINSON )  
Art Unit: 1746 )  
Attorney Docket No.: )  
1171/39480/101 )

EV371845729US

Certificate of Mailing by "Express Mail"  
Express Mailing No.: EV371845729US  
Date of Deposit: February 20, 2004  
I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office Box Addressee" Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above addressed to The Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450, Arlington, VA 22313-1450.  
Tiffany E. Sexton

COPY

**REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL**

BOX RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114**

- a. ☐ Previously submitted
- i. ☐ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_
- ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief of Reply Brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_
- iii. ☐ Other
- b. ☒ Enclosed
- i. ☒ Amendment/Reply
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. ☒ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- iv. ☐ Other

APR 27 2006

2. Miscellaneous

- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ months.
- b. ☐ Other PETITION FOR MONTH EXTENSION OF TIME

3. Fees

- a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 20-1495.
- i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)
- ii. ☒ Extension of time fee
- iii. ☒ Fee for additional claims
- ☒ A check in the amount of \$ 770 is enclosed for the RCE Filing Fee (\$750).
- c. ☐ Payment by credit card

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name Raiford A. Blackstone, Jr. Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) 25,156

Signature  Date February 20, 2004

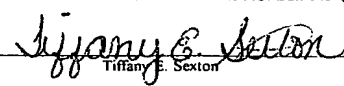
TREXLER, BUSHNELL, GIANGIORGI, BLACKSTONE & MARR, LTD.



IN THE UNITED STATES  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT

Serial No.: 09/904,287 )  
)  
Applicant: SEAGAR and SALISBURY )  
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Filed: July 12, 2001 )  
)  
For: PERFORATION OF LAUNDRY )  
MACHINE DRUM )  
)  
Examiner: F. STINSON )  
)  
Art Unit: 1746 )  
)  
Attorney Docket No.: )  
1171/39480/101 )

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Certificate of Mailing by "Express Mail"   |                   |
| Express Mailing No.:   | EV371845729US     |
| Date of Deposit:   | February 20, 2004 |
| I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office Box Addressee" Under 37 C.F.R. §1.10 on the date indicated above addressed to The Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450, Arlington, VA 22313-1450. |                   |
| <br>Tiffany E. Sexton  |                   |

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Arlington, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Responsive to the Notice of Allowance dated November 20, 2003 and in accordance with the Request for Continued Examination submitted concurrently herewith, kindly amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A laundry machine drum having a sheet material skin including an arrangement of a plurality of perforations therethrough, each of one or more of said perforations including:

a shear cut in said sheet material, the sheet being deformed in the region of said shear cut such that the edge of the sheet material of one side of said shear cut is offset from the edge of the sheet material of the other side of said shear cut over at least some of the length of said shear cut such that an opening is formed between said offset edges and the apparent area of said opening is greater when viewed from at least one direction substantially parallel to the general plane of said drum skin in the region of said perforation than when viewed from a direction substantially perpendicular to the general plane of said drum skin in said region of said perforation;

wherein said drum skin includes a plurality of dish like depressions on its inner surface, with at least one said drum perforation located within each said dish.

2. (Original) A laundry machine drum as claimed in claim 1 wherein said deformed sheet material the material of one said side of said shear cut is displaced outward from the material of the other side of said shear cut relative to the intended spin axis of said drum, but the planar orientation of said regions immediately adjacent the edges of said regions at said shear cut are parallel to one another.

3. (Original) A laundry machine drum as claimed in claim 2 wherein said drum includes at least one group of two or more said perforations, said group defined by their proximity to one another, said openings of said group of perforations facing a common centre.

4. (Original) A laundry machine drum as claimed in claim 1 wherein said drum includes at least one group of two or more said perforations, said group defined by their proximity to one another, said openings of said group of perforations facing a common centre.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) A laundry machine drum as claimed in claim 4 wherein said group of drum perforations is located within a dish in the drum skin extending outwardly relative to the drum spin axis.

7. (Original) A laundry machine drum as claimed in claim 6 wherein said dish includes two said perforations opposingly oriented to one another such that the shear cuts thereof are parallel and a bridge of material is defined by said parallel cuts.

8. (Original) A laundry machine drum as claimed in claim 7 wherein said bridge of material is spaced outwardly further than the remaining material of said dish or dimple relative to said drum spin axis.

9. (Original) A laundry machine drum as claimed in claim 7 wherein said bridge of material is spaced inwardly further than the remaining material of said dish or dimple relative to said drum spin axis.

Claims 10-16 (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) ~~A laundry machine drum having~~ In a laundry machine having a drum with a sheet material skin including an arrangement of a plurality of openings therethrough, which drum is spun at high speed in a dehydration operation to extract wash liquids by centrifugal forces, the improvement comprising: at least one of said openings opening having a form such that the apparent area of said opening is greater when viewed from at least one direction substantially parallel to the general plane of said drum skin in the region of said ~~perforation~~ opening than when viewed from a direction substantially perpendicular to the general plane of said drum skin in said region of said ~~perforation~~ opening, such that fabric spans said openings but does not extrude through said openings during said centrifugal dehydration.

18. (New) The improvement as claimed in claim 17 wherein said form of said openings is such that material surrounding said opening does not project into said drum beyond said general plane of said drum skin.

19. (New) The improvement as claimed in claim 18 wherein said apparent area of said opening when viewed from substantially perpendicular to the general plane of said drum skin in said regions of said opening is substantially zero.



20. (New) A laundry machine having a drum as claimed in claim 17 wherein said apparent area of said opening when viewed from substantially perpendicular to the general plane of said drum skin in said regions of said opening is substantially zero.

21. (New) In a laundry machine having a drum for holding a laundry load, which drum is spun at high speed in a dehydration operation to extract wash liquids by centrifugal forces, the drum having a sheet material skin including an arrangement of a plurality of perforations therethrough, the improvement comprising each of one or more of said perforations including:

a shear cut in said sheet material, the sheet being deformed in the region of said shear cut such that the edge of the sheet material of one side of said shear cut is offset from the edge of the sheet material of the other side of said shear cut over at least some of the length of said shear cut such that an opening is formed between said offset edges and the apparent area of said opening is greater when viewed from at least one direction substantially parallel to the general plane of said drum skin in the region of said perforation than when viewed from a direction substantially perpendicular to the general plane of said drum skin in said region of said perforation.

22. (New) The improvement as claimed in claim 21 wherein said drum perforation is such that during said centrifugal dehydration said fabric spans said perforation but does not extrude through said perforation.

23. (New) The improvement as claimed in claim 21 wherein said perforation does not project into said drum beyond said general plane of said drum skin.

24. (New) The improvement as claimed in claim 23 wherein said deformed sheet material the material of one said side of said shear cut is displaced outward from the material of the other side of said shear cut relative to the intended spin axis of said drum, but the planar orientation of said regions immediately adjacent the edges of said regions at said shear cut are parallel to one another.

25. (New) The improvement as claimed in claim 24 wherein said drum includes at least one group of two or more said perforations, said group defined by their proximity to one another, said openings of said group of perforations facing a common centre.

26. (New) The improvement as claimed in claim 21 wherein said drum includes at least one group of two or more said perforations, said group defined by their proximity to one another, said openings of said group of perforations facing a common centre.

27. (New) The improvement as claimed in claim 21 wherein said drum skin includes a plurality of dish-like depressions on its inner surface, with at least one said drum perforation located within each said dish.

28. (New) The improvement as claimed in claim 26 wherein said group of drum perforations is located within a dish in the drum skin extending outwardly relative to the drum spin axis.

29. (New) The improvement as claimed in claim 28 wherein said dish includes two said perforations opposingly oriented to one another such that the shear cuts thereof are parallel and a bridge of material is defined by said parallel cuts.

30. (New) The improvement as claimed in claim 29 wherein said bridge of material is spaced outwardly further than the remaining material of said dish or dimple relative to said drum spin axis.

31. (New) The improvement as claimed in claim 29 wherein said bridge of material is spaced inwardly further than the remaining material of said dish or dimple relative to said drum spin axis.

## REMARKS

Applicants are concurrently filing this Amendment with an Information Disclosure Statement and a Request for Continued Examination in response to the Notice of Allowance. Accordingly, the Issue Fee has not been paid in response to the Notice of Allowance.

Claims 1-9 and 17-31 are pending. Claims 18-31 are newly-presented.

Reconsideration of claims 1-9 in view of the amendments and the prior art cited in the Information Disclosure Statement is requested. Consideration of claims 17-31 in view of the amendments to claim 17 and the prior art cited in the Information Disclosure Statement is requested. Applicant submits that claims 17-31 should be examined with claims 1-9.

Applicant reserves the right to file a divisional application on claims 10-16 which were canceled in response to the Office Action dated April 10, 2003.

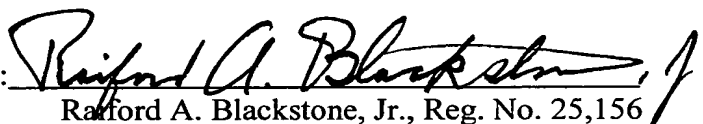
Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact one of the undersigned attorneys at (312) 704-1890.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated:

Feb. 20, 2004

By:



Rarford A. Blackstone, Jr., Reg. No. 25,156

Linda L. Palomar, Reg. No. 37,903

TREXLER, BUSHNELL, GIANGIORGI

BLACKSTONE & MARR, LTD.

105 W. Adams Street

Suite 3600

Chicago, Illinois 60603

(312) 704-1890



APR 27 2004 NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

TREXLER, BUSHNELL, GIANGIORGI,  
Blackstone & Marr, Ltd.  
105 West Adams Street, 36th Floor  
Chicago, IL 60603

|                  |            |
|------------------|------------|
| CASE:            |            |
| FILE #:          | 1170-39480 |
| ISSUE FEE DUE    | 7-23-04    |
| DRAW CORR. DUE   | 7-23-04    |
| FORM.DRAW DUE    | 7-23-04    |
| OBJ. TO EXAM DUE |            |

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
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P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

|                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| EXAMINER           |              |
| STINSON, FRANKIE L |              |
| ART UNIT           | PAPER NUMBER |

DATE MAILED: 04/13/2004  
**COPY**

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/904,287      | 07/12/2001  | Neville David Seagar | 1170/39480/101      | 2028             |

TITLE OF INVENTION: PERFORATION OF LAUNDRY MACHINE DRUM

| APPLN. TYPE    | SMALL ENTITY | ISSUE FEE | PUBLICATION FEE | TOTAL FEE(S) DUE | DATE DUE   |
|----------------|--------------|-----------|-----------------|------------------|------------|
| nonprovisional | NO           | \$1330    | \$300           | \$1630           | 07/23/2004 |

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. **PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.** THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. **THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.** SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE REFLECTS A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE APPLIED IN THIS APPLICATION. THE PTOL-85B (OR AN EQUIVALENT) MUST BE RETURNED WITHIN THIS PERIOD EVEN IF NO FEE IS DUE OR THE APPLICATION WILL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status is changed, pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above and notify the United States Patent and Trademark Office of the change in status, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check the box below and enclose the PUBLICATION FEE and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

☐ Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status.  
See 37 CFR 1.27.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL should be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Even if the fee(s) have already been paid, Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/904,287      | 07/12/2001  | Neville David Seagar | 1170/39480/101      | 2028             |

7590 04/23/2004

Trexler Bushnell Giangiorgi  
Blackstone and Marr, Ltd.  
105 West Adams Street, 36th Floor  
Chicago, IL 60603

EXAMINER

STINSON, FRANKIE L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1746

DATE MAILED: 04/23/2004

## Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 82 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 82 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (703) 305-1383. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at (703) 305-8283.



|                               |                        |                     |  |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| <b>Notice of Allowability</b> | <b>Application No.</b> | <b>Applicant(s)</b> |  |
|                               | 09/904,287             | SEAGAR ET AL.       |  |
|                               | <b>Examiner</b>        | <b>Art Unit</b>     |  |
|                               | FRANKIE L. STINSON     | 1746                |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to RCE filed 2/20/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9 and 17-31.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on \_\_\_\_\_ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

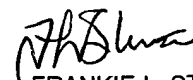
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 2/20/204
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

  
FRANKIE L. STINSON  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit: 1746



|                                       |  |   |                  |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|------------------|
| Application/Control No.<br>09/904,287 |  | Applicant(s)/Patent Under<br>Reexamination<br>SEAGAR ET AL. |                  |
|                                       |  | Examiner<br>FRANKIE L. STINSON                              | Art Unit<br>1746 |

#### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| * |   | Document Number<br>Country Code-Number-Kind Code | Date<br>MM-YYYY | Name        | Classification |
|---|---|--|-----------------|-------------|----------------|
| * | A | US-1,097,510                                     | 05-1914         | Bartholomew | 68/142         |
|   | B | US-  |                 |             |                |
|   | C | US-  |                 |             |                |
|   | D | US-  |                 |             |                |
|   | E | US-  |                 |             |                |
|   | F | US-  |                 |             |                |
|   | G | US-  |                 |             |                |
|   | H | US-  |                 |             |                |
|   | I | US-  |                 |             |                |
|   | J | US-  |                 |             |                |
|   | K | US-  |                 |             |                |
|   | L | US-  |                 |             |                |
|   | M | US-  |                 |             |                |

#### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| * |   | Document Number<br>Country Code-Number-Kind Code | Date<br>MM-YYYY | Country | Name | Classification |
|---|---|--|-----------------|---------|------|----------------|
|   | N |  |                 |         |      |                |
|   | O |  |                 |         |      |                |
|   | P |  |                 |         |      |                |
|   | Q |  |                 |         |      |                |
|   | R |  |                 |         |      |                |
|   | S |  |                 |         |      |                |
|   | T |  |                 |         |      |                |

#### NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

| * |   | Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages) |
|---|---|---|
|   | U |   |
|   | V |   |
|   | W |   |
|   | X |   |

\*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)  
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.





Please Delete

(1)

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
**CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION**

PATENT NO. : 6,776 015 B2  
DATED : August 17, 2003  
INVENTOR(S) : Neville David Seagar and Alex David Salisbury

Page 1 of 2

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

COPY

Title page,

Item [56], **References Cited**, U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS, please insert the following:

-- 1,097,510 \* 05/1914 Bartholomew  
2,264,202 04/40 Forney --

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS, please insert the following:

-- WO 9809303 10/89  
DE 278603 09/14  
EP 245721 11/87  
DE 1958076 05/71 --

Column 1,

Line 36, "He" should be -- the --

Line 62, "tie" should be -- the --

Column 3, line 67 through Column 4, line 1,

"punch tool 1." should be -- punch tool 11. --

Column 5,

Line 11, "perforation." should be -- perforation; where said drum skin includes a plurality of dish like depressions on its inner surface, with at least one said drum perforation located within each said dish. --

Line 22, "acing" should be -- facing --

Column 6,

Line 20, delete "A laundry machine drum having" and insert -- In a laundry machine having a drum with --

Line 22, please insert after "therethrough",

-- which drum is spun at high speed in a dehydration operation to extract wash liquids by centrifugal forces , the improvements comprising: --

Line 22, please insert after "one" -- of -- and delete "openings" and insert -- opening --

Line 26, please delete "perforation" and insert -- opening --

APR 27 2006

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
**CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION**

PATENT NO. : 6,776 015 B2  
DATED : August 17, 2003  
INVENTOR(S) : Neville David Seagar and Alex David Salisbury

Page 2 of 2

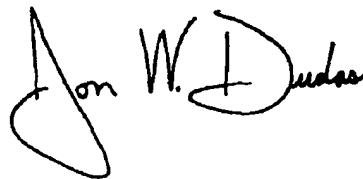
It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Column 6 (cont'd),

Line 28, please delete "perforation." and insert after "said" -- opening, such that fabric spans said openings but does not extrude through said openings during said centrifugal dehydration. --

Signed and Sealed this

Seventh Day of December, 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon W. Dudas". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "J" and a cursive "Dudas".

JON W. DUDAS  
*Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office*

APR 27 2006

Revised

(E)

PTO/SB/44 (04-05)

Approved for use through 04/30/2007. OMB 0651-0033

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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(Also Form PTO-1050)

## UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

Page 1 of 2

PATENT NO. 6,776,015

APPLICATION NO.: 09/904,287

ISSUE DATE : August 17, 2004

INVENTOR(S) : Seagar and Salisbury

It is certified that an error appears or errors appear in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Title page,

Item [56], References Cited, U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS,  
please insert the following:

|             |          |             |
|-------------|----------|-------------|
| --1,097,510 | *05/1914 | Bartholomew |
| 2,264,202   | 04/40    | Forney --   |

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS, please insert the following:

|      |         |          |
|------|---------|----------|
| --WO | 9809303 | 10/89    |
| DE   | 278603  | 09/14    |
| EP   | 245721  | 11/87    |
| DE   | 1958076 | 05/71 -- |

Column 1,

Line 36, "He" should be -- the --

Line 62, "tie" should be -- the --

Column 3, Line 67 through Column 4, Line 1,

"punch tool 1." should be -- punch tool 11. --

MAILING ADDRESS OF SENDER (Please do not use customer number below):

Trexler, Bushnell, Giangiorgi, Blackstone & Marr, Ltd.  
105 West Adams Street 36th Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60603

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.322, 1.323, and 1.324. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1.0 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Attention Certificate of Corrections Branch, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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APR 27 2006

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

Page 2 of 2

PATENT NO. 6,776,015  
APPLICATION NO.: 09/904,287  
ISSUE DATE : August 17, 2004  
INVENTOR(S) : Seagar and Salisbury

It is certified that an error appears or errors appear in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Column 4, Line 62 through Column 6, Line 28

Claims 1-10 should be deleted

Claims, Column 4 , please insert the allowed claims  
1-9 and 17-31(copy enclosed)

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APR 27 2006

ALLOWED CLAIMS FOR U.S. SERIAL NO. 09/904,287

1. A laundry machine drum having a sheet material skin including an arrangement of a plurality of perforations therethrough, each of one or more of said perforations including:  
a shear cut in said sheet material, the sheet being deformed in the region of said shear cut such that the edge of the sheet material of one side of said shear cut is offset from the edge of the sheet material of the other side of said shear cut over at least some of the length of said shear cut such that an opening is formed between said offset edges and the apparent area of said opening is greater when viewed from at least one direction substantially parallel to the general plane of said drum skin in the region of said perforation than when viewed from a direction substantially perpendicular to the general plane of said drum skin in said region of said perforation;  
wherein said drum skin includes a plurality of dish like depressions on its inner surface, with at least one said drum perforation located within each said dish.
2. A laundry machine drum as claimed in claim 1 wherein said deformed sheet material the material of one said side of said shear cut is displaced outward from the material of the other side of said shear cut relative to the intended spin axis of said drum, but the planar orientation of said regions immediately adjacent the edges of said regions at said shear cut are parallel to one another.
3. A laundry machine drum as claimed in claim 2 wherein said drum includes at least one group of two or more said perforations, said group defined by their proximity to one another, said openings of said group of perforations facing a common centre.
4. A laundry machine drum as claimed in claim 1 wherein said drum includes at least one group of two or more said perforations, said group defined by their proximity to one another, said openings of said group of perforations facing a common centre.
5. (Cancelled)

6. A laundry machine drum as claimed in claim 4 wherein said group of drum perforations is located within a dish in the drum skin extending outwardly relative to the drum spin axis.
7. A laundry machine drum as claimed in claim 6 wherein said dish includes two said perforations opposingly oriented to one another such that the shear cuts thereof are parallel and a bridge of material is defined by said parallel cuts.
8. A laundry machine drum as claimed in claim 7 wherein said bridge of material is spaced outwardly further than the remaining material of said dish or dimple relative to said drum spin axis.
9. A laundry machine drum as claimed in claim 7 wherein said bridge of material is spaced inwardly further than the remaining material of said dish or dimple relative to said drum spin axis.

Claims 10-16 (Cancelled)

17. In a laundry machine having a drum with a sheet material skin including an arrangement of a plurality of openings therethrough, which drum is spun at high speed in a dehydration operation to extract wash liquids by centrifugal forces, the improvement comprising: at least one of said opening having a form such that the apparent area of said opening is greater when viewed from at least one direction substantially parallel to the general plane of said drum skin in the region of said opening than when viewed from a direction substantially perpendicular to the general plane of said drum skin in said region of said opening, such that fabric spans said openings but does not extrude through said openings during said centrifugal dehydration.
18. The improvement as claimed in claim 17 wherein said form of said openings is such that material surrounding said opening does not project into said drum beyond said general plane of said drum skin.

19. The improvement as claimed in claim 18 wherein said apparent area of said opening when viewed from substantially perpendicular to the general plane of said drum skin in said regions of said opening is substantially zero.

20. A laundry machine having a drum as claimed in claim 17 wherein said apparent area of said opening when viewed from substantially perpendicular to the general plane of said drum skin in said regions of said opening is substantially zero.

21. In a laundry machine having a drum for holding a laundry load, which drum is spun at high speed in a dehydration operation to extract wash liquids by centrifugal forces, the drum having a sheet material skin including an arrangement of a plurality of perforations therethrough, the improvement comprising each of one or more of said perforations including:

a shear cut in said sheet material, the sheet being deformed in the region of said shear cut such that the edge of the sheet material of one side of said shear cut is offset from the edge of the sheet material of the other side of said shear cut over at least some of the length of said shear cut such that an opening is formed between said offset edges and the apparent area of said opening is greater when viewed from at least one direction substantially parallel to the general plane of said drum skin in the region of said perforation than when viewed from a direction substantially perpendicular to the general plane of said drum skin in said region of said perforation.

22. The improvement as claimed in claim 21 wherein said drum perforation is such that during said centrifugal dehydration said fabric spans said perforation but does not extrude through said perforation.

23. The improvement as claimed in claim 21 wherein said perforation does not project into said drum beyond said general plane of said drum skin.

24. The improvement as claimed in claim 23 wherein said deformed sheet material the material of one said side of said shear cut is displaced outward from the material of the other side of said shear cut relative to the intended spin axis of said drum, but the planar orientation



of said regions immediately adjacent the edges of said regions at said shear cut are parallel to one another.

25. The improvement as claimed in claim 24 wherein said drum includes at least one group of two or more said perforations, said group defined by their proximity to one another, said openings of said group of perforations facing a common centre.

26. The improvement as claimed in claim 21 wherein said drum includes at least one group of two or more said perforations, said group defined by their proximity to one another, said openings of said group of perforations facing a common centre.

27. The improvement as claimed in claim 21 wherein said drum skin includes a plurality of dish-like depressions on its inner surface, with at least one said drum perforation located within each said dish.

28. The improvement as claimed in claim 26 wherein said group of drum perforations is located within a dish in the drum skin extending outwardly relative to the drum spin axis.

29. The improvement as claimed in claim 28 wherein said dish includes two said perforations opposingly oriented to one another such that the shear cuts thereof are parallel and a bridge of material is defined by said parallel cuts.

30. The improvement as claimed in claim 29 wherein said bridge of material is spaced outwardly further than the remaining material of said dish or dimple relative to said drum spin axis.

31. The improvement as claimed in claim 29 wherein said bridge of material is spaced inwardly further than the remaining material of said dish or dimple relative to said drum spin axis.